

## Family Investment

- Placed 63 Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) recipients in jobs (33 full time) at an average wage of \$9.09 per hour - up from the average of \$8.63 for last year.
- Issued 97 photo ID cards to assist customers in obtaining employment.
- 30 employers hired TCA recipients during the year; 59 sites in the community accepted TCA recipients in volunteer positions.
- A Job Retention Award was given to a TCA recipient who had successfully maintained employment for three (3) months or more.
- The "Employability U." Program, a partnership between Child Support and the Fatherhood program, provided job readiness services to custodial and non-custodial parents.
- The Work Opportunities After-Hours Program arranged presentations on "The Hyatt Way" and "Domestic Violence".

## Job Placements

Work Opportunities staff assisted customers in developing workplace skills and finding employment.

FY 2009	63
FY 2008	88
FY 2007	57
FY 2006	303

## Energy Assistance

We provided \$4.4M in assistance to 3123 Dorchester County households. This included \$1.8M Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP), \$2.35M in electric grants, and \$.25M in arrearage grants.



## Child Support Enforcement

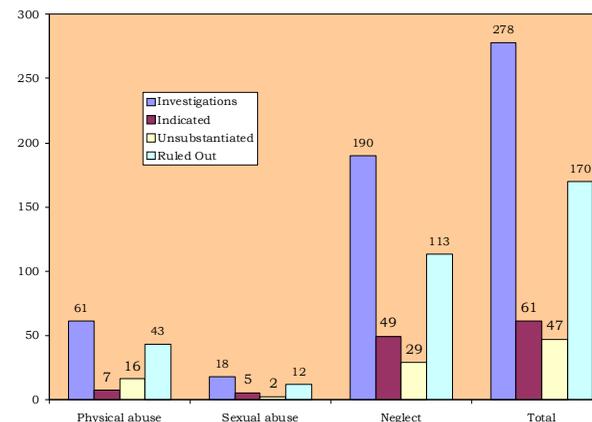


The Child Support Enforcement Division managed 2,111 active cases. Major outcomes of our work this year are:

- Collected \$3,554,658 (+2.6%) in Support
- Established paternity in 62 cases
- Established 248 support orders
- Collected \$161,163 (+28%) from the Drivers License Suspension Program
- Obtained 209 Genetic Tests to determine paternity
- NPEP (Non-custodial parent employment program) enrolled 74 people, 33 completed the program.



## Child & Family Services



### Child Protective Services

- Five (5) children required out-of-home placement as a protection from abuse.
- One (1) fatality was investigated.
- Three (3) were drug exposed infants.
- Four (4) cases required ex-parte investigations.
- 278 investigations were conducted:
  - 170 (61.2%) - Ruled out
  - 61 (21.9%) - Indicated
  - 47 (16.9%) - Unsubstantiated

### Family Preservation Services

- Served 279 children in 127 families. Only 5 (1.8%) children at risk of abuse or neglect required out-of-home placement, 274 (98.2%) children remained in their homes.

### Adoption Services

- Four (4) placements for adoption were made with Dorchester families.
- Nine (9) adoptions were finalized.

### Out Of Home Care

- 10 children required placement - 5 were voluntary placements for children with disabilities.
- Achieved goals for 19 of 49 (38.8%) children: 4 returned home; 3 placed with relatives; 9 adopted; and 3 emancipated.

### Program Goals and Outcomes

#### Children are safe from abuse and neglect

- 90% of cases will have no indicated finding (for a current incident) while the case is open for investigation.
  - Result:** 100% (278 of 278)
- No more than 5% of cases will return for investigation within six months of closure.
  - Result:** 2.5% (7 of 278)

#### Children in out-of-home care are safe from abuse and neglect.

- No more than 6% of children in foster care will be abused or neglected by their substitute caregiver.
  - Result:** 2% (1 of 49)

#### Children in out-of-home care will have timely permanent living arrangements.

- No more than 8.6% of children entering foster care will be re-entries within 12 months of a previous episode.
  - Result:** 0% (0 of 49)
- At least 86.7% of children in foster care will have no more than 2 placements in one year.
  - Result:** 98% (48 of 49)
- At least 76.2% of children leaving foster care to reunification will do so within 12 months of entry.
  - Result:** 0% (0 of 4)
- At least 32% of children leaving foster care to adoption will do so within 24 months.
  - Result:** 11% (1 of 9) were adopted
- 35% of children placed in foster care will achieve permanency within 18 months.
  - Result:** 15% (3 of 19)
- 50% of children with a permanency plan of adoption will be finalized within 12 months of adoption placement.
  - Result:** 0% (0 of 9)

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## Adult Services Program Goals and Outcomes

### Adults are safe from abuse/neglect/exploitation

- 97% of investigations will have no confirmed report of abuse/neglect/exploitation within 6 months of closing.  
**Result:** 100 % (55 of 55)
- 85% of Adult Protective Service cases will be able to remain in the community in the least restrictive environment.  
**Result:** 93 % (51 of 55)

### Adults are safe, protected, and healthy in the least restrictive environment

- 85% of Project HOME residents will be maintained in a stable placement for the next year. **Result:** 93 % (13 of 14)
  - 97% of Project HOME residents will experience no confirmed abuse, neglect or exploitation within the last six months.  
**Result:** 100% (14 of 14)
  - 85% of new Project HOME placements will improve their functioning within six months. **Result:** 100% (1 of 1) improved
  - 85% of Project HOME - AIDS customers will remain in their own home.  
**Result:** 97 % (66 of 68) remained at home.
  - 80% of HOPWA (Persons with AIDS) recipients will have stable housing.  
**Result:** 100 % (18 of 18)
  - 90% of Social Services to Adults (SSTA) cases will be safely maintained in the community.  
**Result:** 96% (232 of 242)
  - 90% of Senior Care cases will have no confirmed incidents of abuse/neglect or exploitation within the last six months.  
**Result:** 100% (105 of 105)
  - 87% of adults at risk of nursing home placement will be maintained in the community.  
**Result:** 96% (136 of 143)
- Adults have their crisis needs met.**
- 85% of Project HOME - AIDS customers will have no utility cut off or eviction.  
**Result:** 94 % (31 of 33)

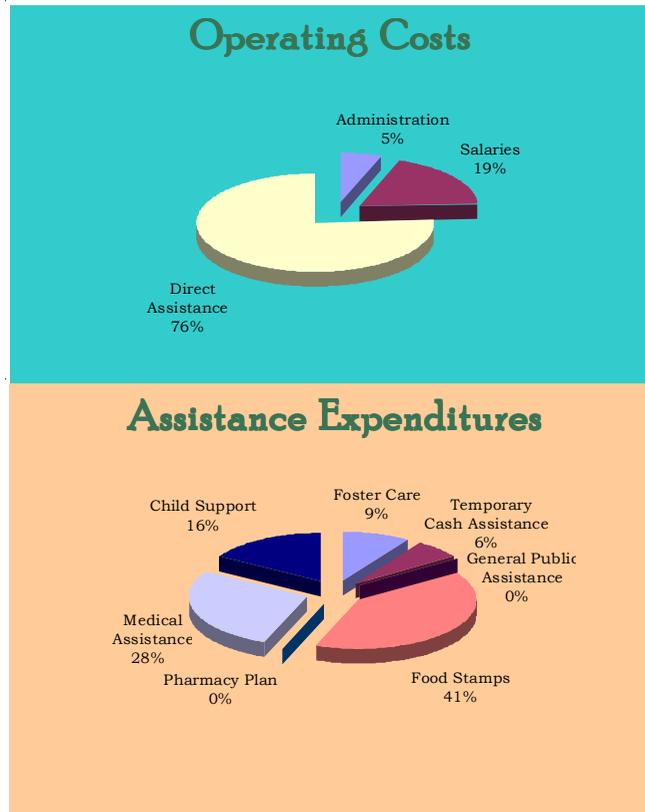
- 90% of AIDS (HOPWA) recipients will maintain employment or receive cash benefits that enable them to be self-sufficient.  
**Result:** 95 % (17 of 18)

### Adults receive supportive services to enable them to reside in the least restrictive environment.

- 65% will receive gap-filling funds.  
**Result:** 70 % (74 of 105)
- 25% will receive IHAS services.  
**Result:** 75 % (52 of 70)

## Administration & Personnel

- Promoted 6 staff (6%); exceeded goal of 5%.
- Successfully completed 2 Grants Funding audits with no exceptions.



# Dorchester County Department of Social Services



## Annual Report 2009

## From the Director

It is a pleasure to present our Annual Report for 2009. This has been a most challenging year for our staff who have strived and succeeded in continuing to serve rising numbers of citizens in need of assistance during the current economic downturn which has hit especially hard in Dorchester County. Our report documents the outcomes of our work compared to the goals we set and the following are a few of our most noteworthy accomplishments for the year:

- We strengthened working relationships with other community agencies - **88.1%** of those surveyed rated our services excellent or good.
- 93.7%** of customers surveyed rated our services as excellent or good.
- We assisted **3123** Dorchester County households struggling to pay their utility bills.
- Family Preservation Services maintained **98.2%** (274 of 279) of the children at risk of abuse or neglect in their homes, thus avoiding foster care placement.
- We exceeded our goal of five (5) final orders of adoption by **180%** with nine (9) children adopted.
- We reduced the number of children in placement outside their homes from 35 to 29 (-17%).
- Our charity, the Care & Share Fund, Inc. assisted **485** citizens thru Dec 2008, including purchasing **223** prescriptions for the elderly who might otherwise do without.

**William D. McDonnell**